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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Latvia)

SUBJECT Valsts Elektrotehniska Fabrika (VEF) NO. OF PAGES 50X1

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1. Current information on the division of VEF effort and division of employees on telephone equipment production vs radio receivers and other production is very difficult to obtain.
  2. In 1944, VEF specialized in building radio receivers, telephone equipment, electric current meters, and the "Minox" camera. Employee training emphasized electrical equipment. Although the Germans had evacuated many of the machine tools, suitable machinery was still available. The building and interiors were so designed that it would be very difficult to start any other type of production. Of course it is possible that the quantity of one article could be increased while another decreased.
  3. In the years 1935-1939 there were usually about 150 employees in the telephone equipment department and subordinated workshops. The radio department and its workshop had about 500. Both departments obtained parts, ready for assembly, from the general mechanical shops on the premises. Certain other parts were imported. VEF produced the "10 in 1" switchboard at the rate of 30 to 40 per year (1935-1939). Production of telephone hand sets was approximately 4,000 per year (1935-1939).
  4. Telephone work at the VEF was performed by order of Post and Telegraph Department of the Ministry of Transportation. Any necessary instructions of improvement, development, and designing were included in the orders to VEF. The actual development and designing was performed at VEF but the original ideas usually came from Germany and England. For example, VEF received samples from these countries, copied and changed what was patented, and then made the suitable designing changes for local conditions.

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5. VEF was the largest electronics factory in Riga. It was also the largest factory in Riga and the largest of its kind in the Balkan States. It was the only factory that produced telephone equipment in Latvia. There were two other radio factories in Riga but they were much smaller than VEF.

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